

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of British Columbia's mine production of silver. Cominco, the province's major silver producer, recovered silver from the lead-zinc-silver ores of its Sullivan mine in southeastern British Columbia and from purchased ores and concentrates. Byproduct silver output from the Sullivan mine was considerably higher in 1976 than in 1975 because of higher grade and greater tonnages of ores produced.

Silver production in 1976 in the Northwest Territories was substantially higher than in 1975 because of greater output by both Echo Bay Mines Ltd. and Terra Mining and Exploration Ltd. Echo Bay and Terra Mining, which operate silver-copper properties near Port Radium on the east shore of Great Bear Lake, were the principal producers.

A decline of 53% in silver production in 1976 over 1975 in the Yukon Territory resulted mainly from lower byproduct output at the lead-zinc-silver mine of Cyprus Anvil Mining Corp. at Faro because of strikes.

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of Canadian silver output, accounting for over 96% of total mine production in 1976. Most of the remaining 4% came from silver-cobalt ores mined in the Cobalt district of Northern Ontario and the balance was byproduct recovery from lode and placer gold ores.

Canadian silver production was valued at about \$175.1 million in 1976 (Table 12.4). The \$3.7 million decrease from 1975 resulted from slightly lower prices. The price in Canada fluctuated in 1976 between a low of \$122.7 a kilogram and a high of \$159.1 a kilogram. Reported industrial consumption of silver in 1976 was 202.2 tonnes compared with 317.3 tonnes in 1975. Additional quantities of 255.3 tonnes in 1976 and 311.9 tonnes in 1975 were used by the Royal Canadian Mint for silver coins commemorating the 1976 Olympic Games.

In 1976 refined silver was produced at six Canadian primary refineries, the largest being Canadian Copper Refiners Ltd. at Montreal East, Que. It recovered 699 859 kilograms from the treatment of anode and blister copper. The silver refinery of Cominco at Trail, BC, was the second largest producer, recovering 293 306 kilograms of byproduct silver in the processing of lead and zinc ores and concentrates. Other producers of refined silver were INCO at Copper Cliff, Ont., from nickel-copper concentrates, Canadian Smelting and Refining (1974) Ltd. at Cobalt, Ont., mainly from silver-cobalt ores and concentrates produced by the Cobalt area mines, and the mint at Ottawa, from gold bullion. At Belledune, NB, Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corp. recovered byproduct silver bullion from lead concentrates treated in a blast furnace.

Molybdenum

12.3.7

Canadian shipments of molybdenum in 1976 were 14.4 million kilograms valued at \$91.9 million. Over 95% of Canadian molybdenum is produced in British Columbia. Quebec is the only other producing province. Canada is the second largest producer in the world, accounting for some 20% of world production.

Prior to 1969, most molybdenum in Canada was produced from primary sources. Since 1969, molybdenum has been produced as a byproduct or a coproduct with copper from large low-grade copper-molybdenum deposits in British Columbia and these deposits have become an important source of supply. In 1976, byproduct and coproduct molybdenum accounted for approximately 45% of Canadian production.

There are two primary producers of molybdenum in Canada — Endako Mines Division of Canex Placer Ltd. and Brynnor Mines Ltd. — both in British Columbia. Endako is the largest producer, accounting for approximately half Canada's production. In 1976, molybdenum was recovered as a byproduct or coproduct of copper at three mines in British Columbia, Brenda Mines Ltd., Lornex Mining Corp. Ltd. and Utah Mines Ltd., and from one mine in Quebec, Gaspé Copper Mines Ltd. Brenda is the second largest producer in Canada, accounting for approximately 25% of molybdenum production.

Two properties were under active consideration in 1976. The first was the extension of the Boss Mountain deposit of Brynnor Mines. A high-grade portion of the deposit is being mined by Brynnor; however, this high-grade area will be depleted within five years. A feasibility study was being done on opening a new mine on the lower-grade part of the orebody during 1977. The second is the possible reopening of a former producer,